

## Ashland Tidings

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Ashland, Ore., Monday, Oct. 4, 1915

### AN ENTANGLING ALLIANCE.

When the "joint note" signed by the United States and half a dozen of the countries of South America, was dispatched some weeks ago to the leaders of the various bands of cut-throats and banditti now terrorizing Mexico, we had hoped that the last had been heard of conferences upon the state of Mexico between this country and its neighbors to the south. But that hope was doomed to disappointment. It is now announced that in another day or two the conferences will be resumed. The colorless and innocuous note which was the fruit of former confabulations having been treated with the indifference or derision which was to be expected, the conferees are again to be brought together, presumably to consider the question, What are we going to do about it?

President Wilson's Mexican policy—if so strong a word may be applied to so weak a thing—has been a tragedy of errors from the very beginning. But the very crown and culmination of all the blundering was achieved when the South American powers were invited into our councils. Our interests and our responsibilities in Mexico are different from theirs and immeasurably greater and heavier. From the very nature of things—race, language, geography, sentiment—these Latin neighbors can not possibly be disinterested or impartial counsellors. That was made clear clear enough when the first conferences were held and when the southern nations flatly refused to join in any note to Mexico that might have in it anything in the nature of an ultimatum or the suggestion of a threat of force.

Now it is entirely likely that things will grow worse in Mexico before they can be made better and that national self-respect, to say nothing of national self-interests, will make it essential for force to be used. It is the conviction of this paper that order never will be restored in Mexico until it is restored by some outside power. If that time should come it will be the United States, of course, that must apply the force and supply the men and the means which will back it up. Equally, of course, our South American conferees will never again give their assent. The upshot of it will be, therefore, that we will be in the position of having invited our friends in to advise with us and then of having rejected their advice. May they not very well inquire, "Why did you ask for our advice if you intended all along to do as you pleased?" And will they not be justified in feeling much more aggrieved than they would have had any right to feel if we had gone about the matter as a great nation ought to go, about such a matter—on our own responsibility? When before, in all our history, has the government of the United States called in outsiders to advise it about matters that are its own problems? The only reason we are concerned with Mexico at all is because of the Monroe Doctrine. But that is OUR doctrine, it is not the doctrine of Brazil or Argentina or Guatema. Why should these nations have been called in to help settle a problem arising under it?

The Mexican trouble is big enough and bad enough at the very best. That it should be complicated by entangling alliances with a lot of other countries is simply intolerable. It is a beautiful appeal which always is made when any international complication arises to "stand by the president," and every American instinctively wishes to do that. But it is a hard task when the president wobbles from one side to another, when he

denounces one cut-throat and endorses another, when he says one day we must keep hands off of Mexico, and another day sends an ultimatum declaring that we will put our hands on Mexico, and worst of all when he calls in a lot of make-believe republics, rank outsiders, and asks them to help the United States of America—let that sink in—to help the United States of America!—decide what ought to be done. It would be a lot easier to stand by the president if the president would stand still!

### AGENTS.

(By Walt Mason, from Judge.)

The "lady agent" always gets me, whatever junk she has for sale; with skillful tongue she soothes and pets me and blarneys me and draws, the kale.

The gent who sells the works of Dickens, in eighty-seven cloth-bound books, pursues in vain; but, ah! the chickens—I can't escape their velvet looks. I often vow, "Henceforth the ladies in vain will seek my humble home; I'll see the whole fair tribe in hades before I buy another time!" Too long, with language false and fibby, have beset me on my way. I've bought the works of Laura Libbey, and also those of Bertha Clay; a five-foot shelf of Old Nick Carter now ornaments my cozy den. Methinks the maidens must be smarter, if they can work me once again."

I grimly frame this resolution, that's viewed with pleasure by the frau, and pass around some elocution about my adamantine vow.

And thus, with resolution laden, I to my musty office go, to which there comes a beaming maiden, who sells the works of Edgar Poe.

"It's no use," I firmly greet her. "The stuff is off—I will not buy." Whereat her smile grows all the sweeter, and humor twinkles in her eye. Ah, why is man so weak and washy when round his chair fair damsels trot? I know I'll buy these volumes bushy, e'en while I tell her I will not. I always fall for female friskers, I still surrendered to their snares, where I would take a man with whiskers and kick his person down the stairs.

My words don't daunt her or fright her, although I say, "Can't deal with you! I've bought the works of every writer that ever lived, and then a few! I have the works of Pope and Shelley, of Rex E. Beach and Richard Roe; I've Zola's books—they're rather smelly; I draw the line at Edgar Poe. I hate to raise this sort of holler when you come up here peddling rhyme, but I will give you half a dollar if you will let me off this time."

In vain, in vain! She smiles and twitters and lays a volume on my knee; I know I'll have to take my bitters before she will consent to flee. She talks about the text and printing, but I am thinking of the way Dame Nature does her fairest tinting on damsels young and blithe and gay. She talks about the illustrations, but I am thinking how a maid can rattle kings and shatter nations, if she has eyes the proper shade. She talks about the leather binding, but I am looking at her hair, which like a rope of gold is winding above her forehead low and fair.

I might fill up a dozen columns about that agent and her charms, but, having bought some thirty volumes, I'll pack them homeward in my arms.

A Minnesota hunter lost a fat roll of money while chasing a prairie chicken. A good many fellows have had the same experience chasing a city chicken.

And many a man's so-called dignified silence is due to the lamentable fact that he doesn't know what to say.

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## Talks Through Air New York to Hawaii

Wireless telephony from the Atlantic seaboard to Hawaii, a distance of 4,900 miles, is an accomplished fact. By the special wireless telephone developments which have been made by the engineers of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and of the Western Electric Company, speech was transmitted Friday from Washington to a wireless station near Honolulu. If anything further was needed to show the wonderful capacity of this new discovery by the engineers of the Bell System, this triumph, coming but a few hours after Mr. Vail, the president of the company, had talked by wireless from Washington to Mr. Carty, chief engineer, located at Mare Island, near San Francisco, is conclusive. The distance over which this wireless communication was held is greater than the distance from New York to London, New York to Paris, or from New York to many other important points, such as Rome, Vienna and Berlin.

That trans-Atlantic wireless telephone communication is assured as soon as the disturbed condition in Europe will permit of tests from this country to there, is obvious when it is remembered that all scientists agree on the fact that it is much more difficult to send wireless communications across land than across water. This wonderful wireless telephone from Washington to Hawaii had to pass over the whole of the United States—a distance of 2,500 miles—before it encountered the more simple wireless conditions which exist when sending over large bodies of water. For the purpose of this test the sending was done from the navy wireless station at Arlington, just outside of Washington. The receiving was done on a small wireless antennae specially equipped for the purpose by the engineers of the telephone company which by permission of the naval authorities was located at the United States naval station.

The message at Honolulu was received by Lloyd Espenschied, an engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, who had been sent there by J. J. Carty, its chief engineer, to take charge of the observation, the successful results of which we are now able to report.

It was learned from Bancroft Gherardi, the engineer of the plant of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, who is one of Mr. Carty's staff who have been working on this problem, that the results obtained Friday in talking by wireless telephone from New York and Washington to San Francisco and Hawaii were a culmination of long and very important investigations and discoveries which have been made by the engineers of the Bell System. These investigations have extended over a considerable period. During the early spring of this year, as result of the work already done, the engineers of the telephone company talked over a distance of about 250 miles, using for the purpose an experimental tower which they had erected near Montauk Point, L. I., and a small tower borrowed for the purpose from private owners at Wilmington, Del. Soon after that they talked over 1,000 miles, in this case using the experimental tower at Montauk Point and an experimental tower erected for the purpose at St. Simons Island, Georgia. The results of these tests conclusively demonstrated the correctness of their work and its possibilities and steps were immediately taken to try distances comparable with those involved in trans-Atlantic telephony, and, indeed, even looking to trans-Pacific telephony. What the results of these further tests have been is shown by the talks to San Francisco and Hawaii. Another interesting feature of the tests Friday is that in a practical way the ability

to connect the wireless telephone system with wire telephone systems was shown. You have no doubt noted that Mr. Vail in his talk used wire from New York to Washington. At Washington, by the special means invented and developed by the engineers of this company, the wires were connected to our special wireless apparatus and to the navy's wireless tower, where the message went wirelessly to its destination.

Mr. Gherardi, when asked what was the place of wireless telephony in the general scheme of communication, stated that he expected that it would form a most important adjunct and extension to the existing schemes of communication. But its means of communication can be established between points where it is impracticable to extend wires. For many reasons wireless telephony can never take the place of wire systems, but it may be expected to supplement them in a useful manner. Wireless telephone systems are subject to serious interference from numerous conditions, atmospheric and others. For many uses the fact that any one suitably equipped can listen in on the various telephone talk would be a serious limitation to its use.

Another dream has come true. A dream which a few years ago was ridiculed. How long will it be before Thomas Edison's assertion that eventually a man in the middle of the Sahara desert may take an instrument from his pocket and talk to any part of the world, will be realized?

## Sweeney Sues for Big Road Claim

Suit has been filed in the Multnomah county circuit court by J. W. Sweeney, contractor and builder of the Siskiyou grade, asking judgment against Jackson county for \$121,241.04, alleged to be due on the work. Service was filed on county officers Thursday.

According to figures set forth in the complaint, Sweeney claims the total cost of the road to be \$277,562.26, of which \$156,321.22 has been paid.

According to the final estimates made by State Highway Engineer Bowley and confirmed by the present highway engineer, there is between \$35,000 and \$36,000 due Sweeney under his contract. This final estimate was signed by Mr. Sweeney, who now claims he signed it under protest. The money has not been paid because Mr. Sweeney refused to give a receipt in full and the county refused to finance a law suit. Efforts at compromise failed, the county court holding that the engineer's figures governed and that Mr. Sweeney had already agreed to them in writing. The engineers state that they were very liberal in their allowances to the contractor and that he is not entitled to more.

Mr. Sweeney did a good job and lost money, principally because of the character of the material, which required a great deal of powder to move. He also claims the classification was insufficient, but offered to compromise for \$50,000 less than he is suing for.

Loyal H. McCarthy, Robert Darcy, S. B. Huston and Carey & Kerr are attorneys for the plaintiff, while the county is represented by A. E.

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Reames. It is probable an effort will be made to transfer the case to Jackson county.

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